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DOWNTOWN PARADE

WILL COSTELLO — LOVELAND REPORTER HERALD

An enormous duck representing the annual Loveland Rotary Duck Race fundraiser moves through downtown Loveland during the annual Corn Roast Festival Parade Saturday morning.

CORN ROAST FESTIVAL BACK FOR 128TH YEAR

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Lovelanders celebrated the annual Corn Roast Festival on Friday and Saturday, bringing the local tradition back for its128th year.

The festival kicked off at 5 p.m. Friday at Fairgrounds Park in south Loveland with the usual attractions, not the least of which is the event's namesake: roasted corn.

Live music from the Jacob Larson Band, food trucks, a beer garden and the annual corn shucking festival rounded out the evening.

Saturday morning festivities began with the Corn Roast Parade, and this year's festival's theme, the "A-maize-ing Corn Roast Festival," meant that many participants and some spectators were dressed in capes and superhero masks along with children dressed as Batman, Mr. Incredible and other comic book and cartoon characters.

The parade route began at Fairgrounds Park on Saturday morning, and city officials blocked off Railroad Avenue and Lincoln Avenue as far north as Sixth Street for the various businesses, community organizations, marching bands, dance troupes and political candidates that participated.

Paradegoers looking for more fun could walk just a few blocks south to Fairgrounds Park where the festivities continued Saturday afternoon.

The food trucks and beer garden returned, and live music acts throughout the day included Dotsero, a Denver-based jazz group, Blues Dogs and a country band called Duey & Unbroken.

An appropriate activity for the festival, a cornhole tournament, took place at noon, and the annual Loveland Rotary Duck Race kicked off at 4 p.m.

The Duck Race, a fundraiser now 29 years running, involves rubber ducks racing down the Big Thompson River near Fairgrounds Park.

The event is a popular one, and has raised tens of thousands of dollars for community initiatives like literacy programs in the Thompson School District, scholarships for graduates and leadership camps for members of the YMCA of the Rockies.